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KIDS and country life



Photo Series 63
U.S. Department
of Agriculture
September 1962



BN-16488



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WHETHER IT WAS taking a ride
on old Nell, chompin' on green apples,
or proudly strolling home with a
day's catch—through the years country life
provided memories galore for farm kids.

Some say
it still does.



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JUST LIKE KIDS everywhere, country kids develop their own unique toys, carry out their individual responsibilities, and improvise to have fun.





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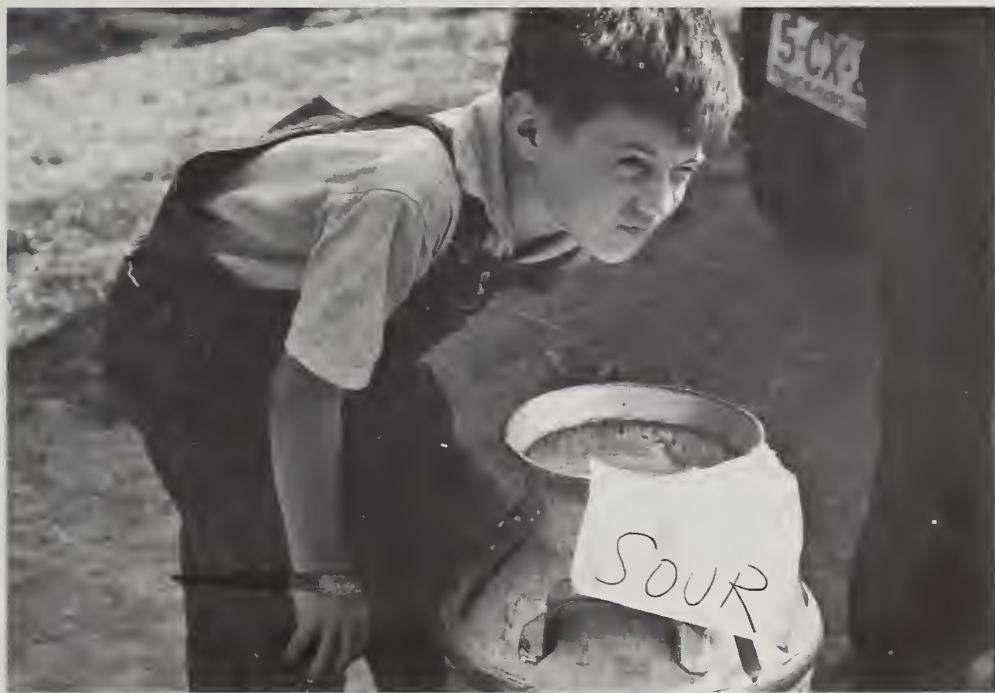
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MOST EVERYONE will admit that farm kids get close to nature early in life, learning the value of water, of soil, of people who have worked on the land. Maybe that's one reason American agriculture has grown so fast. Kids on farms develop acute senses, learn early to be inquisitive and aware of life around them.



BN-16485

MORE THAN half a century ago, agricultural leaders realized that farm youngsters were interested in their surroundings. They taught them about power, about animals, and then, as now, there was pride in achievement. And there are continued efforts to teach farm children about problems of the land.



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... *BUT* they
also offer
a place
to think,
to study.
And at
day's end, there are the endless chores. They've changed
through the years, although kids won't admit it perhaps.



BN-16490

FARM YOUNGSTERS have always shared in the work on a farm. They've become expert at carrying water to hands in the field—even become adept at handling the water jug themselves. They've followed in the furrows planting peas, fetched and carried for threshing crews, and learned to handle a scoop better than most men for longer hours too.



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TO DAY they take to tractors easier than their fathers learned the peculiarities of a team. Or they continue to learn household tasks and make clothes their grandmothers would have thought available only to the rich.



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YES, farm kids *are* lucky. Maybe they've always been lucky although at times they would be the last to think so. Sometimes the cranking of an ice cream freezer seems bearable only because of the reward to come, or the climbing of a snow-packed slope worthwhile only because of the thrills inevitable on the ride back down.



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EVERYONE remembers his youth with longing,
even as he longed for something in his youth.
*Chances are we can all remember occasions of warmth and security
and satisfaction, particularly if we had roots on the farm.*





BN-16944-X

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Growth Through Agricultural Progress